

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

18-0 64

ORLEANS

EAS.609

Town/City: Eastham

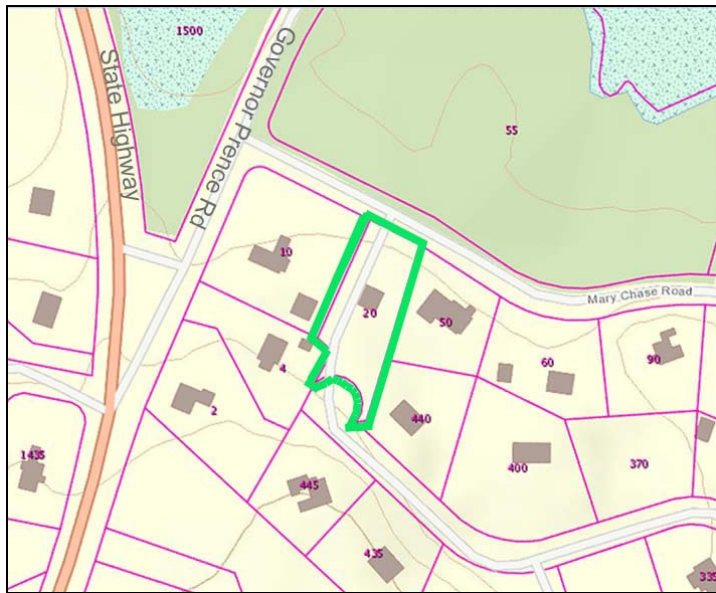
Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Photograph



View from north-northeast.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: April 2013

Address: 20 Mary Chase Road

Historic Name: Mary Chase House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1947-1954

Source: tax records & deeds

Style/Form: Ranch

Architect/Builder: undetermined

Exterior Material:

Foundation: undetermined (probably concrete block)

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: small wood frame shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): front porch (1977)

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: .48 acre

Setting: The subject property is a double-fronted lot located between north and south sections of Mary Chase Road. The surrounding land uses are single family residential.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

20 MARY CHASE ROAD

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This simple one-story, wood frame, single family dwelling has an asphalt-shingled gable roof and a rectangular footprint. Although dated by the Assessor as constructed in 1914, the house has the appearance of a mid-20th century building (see historical narrative below for other documentation supporting this conclusion). It is clad in the wood shingle siding ubiquitous on Cape Cod which covers the foundation. There is a brick interior endwall chimney on its left (east) side. An addition in 1977 appears to have been a full front porch; possibly open when first constructed but now enclosed with three large slider or casement windows.¹ A small gabled rear entrance vestibule also could have been added in 1977. In 1991 a "Heatilator" fireplace was added, which is likely the reason for a more centrally located flue on the roof.²

The lot features a row of mature coniferous trees along its western property line and mature coniferous and deciduous shrubs immediately in front of the house, reducing its visibility considerably. A metal sculpture is located in the front yard. A driveway off of the northern portion of Mary Chase Road runs along the west side of the house and connects to the southern portion of the same roadway which wraps around neighboring properties to the east and south and creates the double-fronted lot condition.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Though town records ascribe a construction date of 1914 to the house at 20 Mary Chase Road, tax records suggest that it was instead built sometime between 1947 and 1954. In 1947, three years after Francis Gerald Chase bought the former Ezekiel Doane homestead, tax records show Chase with only one dwelling house on the three contiguous parcels he owned; by 1954 his wife Mary was taxed for two houses on the same parcels. The older house is now 10 Mary Chase Road; the house on the subject property was thus probably built about 1950.

This property was once a part of the Governor Prentice farm, for which the intersecting roadway is named. (See inventory form EAS.608 for discussion of neighboring property at 10 Mary Chase Rd.) This tract was purchased by master mariner Ezekiel Doane (1813-90).³

An Eastham native, Ezekiel Doane, had begun work on a fishing vessel when he was eleven years old and had worked his way up to the mate's position by the time he was nineteen. Two years later he received his first vessel command, and he sailed in the merchant service across the Atlantic until the Mexican War, when as captain of the brig *Chattahoochee* he ran supplies and ammunition through blockades to American troops. When the war ended, Doane began trading with Mexico and is said to have been the first to raise an American flag in a Mexican port after the war. According to one genealogy, Doane then returned to Eastham "and bought the old Governor Prince farm in Eastham, but after two years of land life, he sold out to Moses Eaton, bought the brig *Vande* and returned to the southern trade." Doane took part in the California gold rush in 1849 but again came home, repurchased the Prentice farm from Eaton, "and there resided the remainder of his life. His farm was the largest in his neighborhood."⁴ Deeds indicate that Doane made this purchase in April 1851 and that the property had a dwelling house, barn, and other buildings; in 1866 and 1869 Doane bought two other parcels, both with dwelling houses, that bordered this former Prentice estate.⁵ The 1856 Barnstable County map, the earliest one to identify dwellings and their owners, shows Doane in this rough location. Why Doane would have built yet another house is unclear, though the fact that the house at 10 Mary Chase Road was his is indicated by a 1948 deed that identifies it as the "old homestead" of Ezekiel Doane.⁶

The 1860 census shows Doane as a farmer in a household with his wife Rachel A. Lincoln Doane, whom he married in Boston in 1835, and their children Obadiah, then a twenty-four-year-old mariner, William, Charles, Rachel, Mary, and George; the agricultural census for that year indicates that he owned 45 acres. In 1870 their daughter Georgianna, born in 1848, and son Abelino, born in 1858, were also living in the household. In 1880 Obadiah, Charles, Georgianna, and Abelino were all still living with their parents. By then Ezekiel Doane owned 94 acres of land.

Ezekiel Doane died in 1890, and the homestead farm appears to have passed to his son Abelino, who had married Bessie Wareham of Eastham the year before. The 1910 census shows Abelino as a farmer living with his wife, his unmarried sister Georgianna, and a boarding farm laborer. In 1918 Georgianna Doane died at the age of sixty-nine, and the 1920 census shows Abelino and Betsey Doane in the house with farm laborer Eugene R. Cobb. The 1929 directory shows his address as King's Highway, no doubt because neither Mary Chase Road nor the southern section of Governor Prentice Road yet existed.

¹ Town of Eastham, Building Dept. record simply notes "Add." and "77."

² Ibid., date of permit issuance Feb. 6, 1991.

³ Thurtell, Ed. *Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009) p. 138. Also, Enoch Pratt, *History of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, Barnstable Co., Mass from 1644-1844* (1844) pp. 12-18.

⁴ Alfred Alder Doane, comp., *The Doane Family I. Deacon John Doane, of Plymouth; II. Doctor John Doane, of Maryland; and Their Descendants* (Boston: by the compiler, 1902), 315-17. See also Godfrey Sparrow, Harvard, to Ezekiel Doane, 6 September 1843, BCD 31:439; Ezekiel Doane, master mariner, to Moses F. Eaton, Boston, trader, 7 July 1846, BCD 41:35; Moses F. Eaton, Stoneham, to Ezekiel Doane, Eastham, 7 April 1851, BCD 50:224.

⁵ E. E. Knowles to Ezekiel Doane, 1 November 1866, BCD 93:163; Samuel Freeman, Boston, to Ezekiel Doane, 10 August 1869, BCD 100:258.

⁶ Elmer E. Colligan, Canton, to Mary A. Chase, Canton, 14 January 1948, BCD 686:539.

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In 1944 Charles Frederick Moore, the son of Ezekiel Doane's daughter Rachel and her husband Frederick Moore, sold the Doane homestead to Francis G. Chase of Canton. Born in the Roxbury section of Boston in 1897, Chase was a machinist and factory foreman who married Mary Agnes Griffin of Canton in 1919; her parents, Thomas J. and Mary Agnes Ruane Griffin, had emigrated from Ireland in 1893. In 1920 the couple lived in Dedham; Francis Chase was a leather factory machinist, while Mary Chase worked as a telephone operator. By 1930 the couple had four children.

Tax records for 1947 show Francis G. Chase with a homestead parcel of 24.8 acres, a house (no doubt 10 Mary Chase Road) valued at \$3000, a three-car garage, and 44 acres in two other parcels. Deeds of the 1940s that describe these three parcels note that only the first of them had buildings and that Abelino Doane had sold off parcels of the homestead property between 1912 and 1936. The same deed states that "Georgianna M. Doane, who had a home in the Old Homestead under the Will of Ezekiel Doane, died unmarried Feb. 1, 1918."⁷

Tax records for 1954 show Mary A. Chase owning the same three parcels ascribed to her husband in 1947 but cite an additional house valued at \$1000, probably 20 Mary Chase Road. In the early 1960s Chase sold 6.5 acres of her holdings in this area to Robert C. and Elizabeth A. Clark, who subdivided the property in 1960 and 1963. In May 1965 they deeded back to Mary A. Chase part of Lot 17, on which 20 Mary Chase Road stands, and four years later Chase sold that 21,040-square-foot lot with its house to Michael L. and Andrea K. Ahern with the proviso that the lot not be divided further and that no more than one house and associated outbuildings to constructed on the lot. The Clark subdivision plans document the existence of the house at 20 Mary Chase Road from at least 1960. George E. and Rosemary Abbott of Marcellus, New York, acquired the property from Andrea Knox (formerly Andrea Ahern) in 1971, and the Abbotts transferred title to 20 Mary Chase Road to its current owner, their son George E. Abbott Jr., in 2003.⁸

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MAPS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)

⁷ Colligan to Chase, BCD 686:539.

⁸ Mary A. Chase, Brockton, to Robert C. and Elizabeth A. Clark, 25 February 1963, BCD 1193:429; Robert C. and Elizabeth A. Clark to Mary A. Chase, 5 May 1965, BCD 1315:132; Mary A. Chase, North Scituate, to Michael L. and Andrea K. Ahern, February 1969, BCD 1433:440; Andrea White Knox, West Dennis, to George E. and Rosemary J. Abbott, Marcellus NY, 22 April 1971, BCD 1508:314; Abbotts to George E. Abbott Jr., New Brighton MN, 12 May 2003, BCD 17856:239. See also "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham Mass. Made for Robert C. Clark and Elizabeth A. Clark," March 1963, BCP 177:115, and "Plan of Land in Eastham Mass. Made for Robert C. Clark and Elizabeth A. Clark," March 1964, BCP 185:147.

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View from northeast.



View from north-northeast.



View from north-northwest.



Aerial view from west (courtesy of Bing Maps).